

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A protective element, particularly for cycling shorts, comprising a double-stretch support with which at least one double-stretch padding is associated.

5 2. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said support made of double-stretch material can elongate along multiple planes, including mutually perpendicular ones.

3. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said support has an elasticity of up to 30-40%.

10 4. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said support is associatable with a pair of shorts.

5. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said at least one double-stretch padding is an open-cell high-density padding.

15 6. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding is deformable in multiple directions, including mutually perpendicular directions.

7. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding has a density between 55 and 95 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

20 8. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding has a density of 65 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

9. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding has a thickness of 5 to 12 mm.

10. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding has a thickness of 10 mm.

25 11. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding is constituted by a first central element which arranges itself approximately at the tangent to an imaginary curved line of a crotch of a pair of shorts.

30 12. The protective element according to claim 11, wherein a second element is formed at the front, and a pair of third elements are formed at the

rear, with first flat regions interposed, at transverse ends of said first central element.

13. The protective element according to claim 12, wherein said second element affects the front region of the crotch while said third elements are mirror-symmetrical with respect to a central plane which is longitudinal to said double-stretch padding and are mutually divided by the presence of a second flat region which accordingly lies at said longitudinal central plane.

14. The protective element according to claim 12, wherein said first flat regions, and therefore the dimensions of said first central element, said second element and said third elements are such that they are formed at a folding region of said double-stretch padding that is not affected, at said first, second and third elements, by any deformation during use.

15. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding is associable at said support by a high-frequency or thermoformation or ultrasound application method.

16. The protective element according to claim 1, wherein said double-stretch padding is applied only at points where resting on a saddle of a bicycle occurs and no padding is provided in the other areas of said support.

17. Shorts, particularly for cycling, comprising a protective element constituted by a double-stretch support with which at least one double-stretch padding is associated.

18. The shorts according to claim 17, wherein said shorts and said support are made of the same material.